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To My Dear Mother. -

I HAVE
KEPT THIS LITTLE BOOK FOR YOU
SINCE WE LEFT CAMP LEWIS. IT
HAS NEVER LEFT ME THROUGHOUT -
HAS BEEN OVER THE TOP WITH
ME - IN 3 AIR-RAIDS, - THROUGH
SHELL-FIRE, & 2 GERMAN BARRAGES
THROUGH GAS, ETC. I AM SURE IT
WILL PLEASE YOU MORE THAN ANY-
THING, FOR IT REVEALS MY TRUE
FEELINGS & EVERYTHING IS JUST
EXACTLY AS THINGS HAPPENED.

Sat. Jun. 22. 1918.

Left Camp Lewis on Chie.
Milwaukee & St Paul. First day
out through Wash. Beautiful
Mnt. scenery, finest ice ever seen.
Hit Mont. some time in the night.

Sun. Jun. 23.

Through Mont.
Sage brush & hills all day.

Mon. Jun. 24.

Still through
Mont. Bad lands & wonderful
scenery. Crossed Columbia River.
Saw the spot where Gen. Custer
made his last stand. Mills Cr. &
other celebrated towns. Hit N. &
S. Dakota in evening. Lots of fine
orchards & farming lands. Every-
one fine to me, & especially the
Amer. Red Cross.

Tues June 25.

In Minnesota, same
farming lands, etc.. Had swim
& bath outside of Montevideo & surely
enjoyed it. We were dirty as hogs.

Wed. June 26.

In Chicago about
noon. Sure some city. Went
through the stock yards & they are
immense. Seems to be a dirty
city & at least we saw. Passed

over the Mississippi just at dusk.

June 27, & 28:

Through Ill., Mich., Penn. & N. Y. & into N. J. Wonderful weather & scenery especially in N. Y. Went along the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany - through all the big manufacturing towns. Saw the Remington Gun Factory, where my Enfield was made. Arrived in Camp Merritt 1.29 A. M. on the 29th. Note that the trip across the U. S. was the finest any one could have. We had lots of music, plenty to eat & smoke & surely the spirit shown by the boys & people will win the war. We traveled in the best cars the railroads afforded.

June 29th to July 6th.

Getting our over-sea outfit. Every thing new, but having a hard time to get proper fits. I started out with a pair of shoes, a shirt & breeches, slightly large & kept trading till I had a pair of shoes, size 47, shirt 19 & breeches 46-40. but really got fixed. Weather

July 10th. Sea Calm but ship rolling a little. Some of the boys getting sick but have hopes of escaping it myself. Very hot on board & shade hard to find. Have plenty of books aboard so manage to pass the time fairly well. Lots of music also but playing some of the pieces we used to play in Gae. & it makes me too lonesome so beat it. Music affects me strangely anyhow.

July 11. A bit dizzy today, but still feeling good enough. All the cruisers had target practice this A. M. Was the first time I ever saw a big gun fired. Some of the fellows got excited & 2 of them dropped life preservers over one fainted one pulled off his shoes & most of them never noticed it at all but went on with reading playing cards etc. The English Sailors all say they never saw such a funny bunch as us. Said the load they had ahead of us most of the boys sat on deck reading bills & things

very damp but 2 hot days.
Didn't go to N. Y. City, as
was too busy.

July 30.

Left Camp Merritt
& landed in Erie Cy. & took
ferry to Hoboken where we were
loaded on to English Str. Armach.
Quarters very crowded & awful
stench on boat. Dirtiest place
we ever seen but we're soldiers
& not supposed to holler I guess.
Laid in Port till next morning.

July 31.

Left Port 6.30 a.m.
& anchored at Sandy Hook till
Convoy was collected. Saw the
Statue of Liberty. Fourteen
Transports all told & 2 destroyers
, Cruiser & 2 airplanes accom-
panied us the first day out.
Wonderful sight to see ships
all in formation. We sleep
in hammocks & find they
make a very good bed. Un-
satisfied with our quarters as
we're crowded so & it's very un-
sanitary. Eating very poor. We
have a hard time getting plenty.
Am very homesick & can't get
settled down.

hunch dont seem to care if they sink or not. They seem to have a great respect for us westerners. Feeding us very poor.

July 12. Sea very rough all night but am still not sick except dizzy. Will be glad when we hit land at any rate. Guess I wasent cut out for a sailor. Still surely never forget our trip & the 316 has the finest bunch of bays ever collected in one load. A letter would work wonders now.

July 13. Very rough & sea rolling bad. Ship sighted on port side about 4.30 P.M. & Cruiser went in pursuit. Must be friendly for she comes back. Saw a 10 ft shark today & lots of birds, so we must be near some island.

July 14. Weather calm but very cold. Was up at 2.30 A.M. & saw the Northern Light. Was a very beautiful sight. Every color you can

imagine. Also a school of very large fish. Saw something last night that was interesting. Phosphorescent lights in the water. Shine like matches. Will be in danger zone by tomorrow or next day.

July 15.

Water calm to-day & horizon extremely clear.

Very cold in A. M. but warm in P. M. Our escort (Cruiser Pueblo, which by the way carries a sailor I worked with in Sierra City) turned back to the good old U. S. about 4.30 P. M. Now if I have landed to go with her. Sailed clean around convoy as if badding us good bye.

July 16.

Destroyers & sub-chasers out to meet me & escort me the rest of the way. They are funny looking affairs & very speedy. Can count 14 of them all told. 200 miles from Liverpool.

July 17.

Land at last & how glad we are to see it too. Got up at 4.30 A. M. & first saw it on port (right) side. Put up

in time to see us sail through
the Mersey Gate. Ireland on one
side & Scotland on the other.
Mother is thinking of you now
for we heard you talk so much
of Ireland. In the Irish sea,
with one air-plane over head &
1 dirigible. The most dangerous
part of our journey now. Report
that transports that left us
early this A. M. bound for
Glasgow were fired on by subs.
Don't see how a sub. could get
through our barrage or
escort. The trip has been without
any excitement whatever & id he
willing to be dumped into the
water for the opportunity of
seeing a sub & torpedos. But
guess theres plenty of excitement
to come. Will sure be glad
to step on dry ground again for
traveling in a transport is espe-
cially crowded & fed as we are.
Anchored right outside of Liverpool,
& will probably dock tomorrow.
Beautiful City. Houses exactly
same & all painted dull red.

July 18 -

Reveille 4:00 A. M.

Woke at 11:30 A. M. after sailing

the entire length of the Harbor
which is 8 miles. Wonderful system
of blocks. Blocked on the Brighton
side. Country is beautiful & reminds
me of N. Y. State. The rural
part I mean. Walk $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles
to Amer. Rest Camp, just outside
of city limits, with full pack &
equipment. Worst hike we ever
been on for we had nothing
to eat, & all of us soft from
laying around on the boat. Rest
Camp in beautiful place & we
sure needed the rest. On our
hike, it rained harder than I
have ever saw it rain & we
were all soaking wet, with no
fires or dry clothes.

July 19.

Given passes in
Liverpool & have a dandy time.
We were the first Amer. troops
to ever get passes there on acct
of our good behavior. Liverpool
a grand city, but behind the
times & everything old fashioned.
Having a great time with
the English money & lots of
fun talking to the people.
They talk so funny & pronounce
words so funny. The

people all seem very hospitable
& glad to see us. The town
is full of wild women but in
remembering promises to sweet-
heart & mother so in a good
dog. People all look worn out
and badly fed & I surely feel
sorry for them. Lots of amblers
& legless soldiers. Never saw
so many toothless women in
my life & they say it is from
the water. Houses all built
with bricks, & all symmetrical
& the people all seem to go
wild over the Amer. soldiers
& one girl told me she they
all liked them the best. They
seemed such strong big fellows
in comparison with the British.
Also our continual good spirits
& smiles win them. I guess
on July 25.

Left Liverpool &
rode to South Hampden where
we went to another rest camp
over night. These rest camps
are sure a joke. Half enough
to eat & hard boards to sleep
on besides a good stiff hike
to each one. Probably there's far
more in it to make us

July 21.

Left South Hampton
& embarked on a small transport
to go across the channel. South-
Hampton a very nice clean
little town but we had no chance
to see it much. Left Port about
14.30 & were so crowded there
hardly standing room. Saw a
liner that had been torpedoed.
Surely tears a great hole in
them. The trip across the chan-
nel was the roughest you can
imagine. Over 2/3 of the
outfit sick & one guy spilled
his supper all over my shoes.
I slept standing up for the first
time in my life. I slept in
every position & place you can
imagine since leaving Camp
Lewis. Sometimes is funny to
even think about. On tables,
hammocks floor sitting up,
standing up etc.

July 22 to 29.

Block in Cherbourg
France & marched out to a
winter rest camp. About stand
too & the English don't believe
in feeding very heavy. Everyone
about out of potatoes & meat.

+ we can all hum now without
a glitch. Leave Cherbourg the
same night & loaded in box-
cars & rattled away to we don't
know where. 34 men in one
little car, about $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of
a good old U. S. box-car. Some
sleeping, sitting up, others under
the benches. Some stay awake.
In fact its seeing & rance through
a box-car, instead of a post-
hole. We cant get enough to
eat.

July 23.

Still going & hit
Paris about 12.00 noon. Saw
the Eiffel Tower, known the world
over. Left Paris 3.30 & rode
all night & hit Nogent where
we had dinner (or a light lunch
rather - very light too.) Loaded
on to the dinky & rode 12 miles
to Pontane. Plucky jumped the
rails & we hoisted per. on &
kept a going. Got off at Pontane
& hiked $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Canovaux
where we are quartered in
Billits or stone houses owned
by the people. Is a beautiful
spot, in fact the most beautiful
I've ever seen. A very old

quaint town entirely built of
stone. Not a wooden structure
in France or England that we
see so far. Some of the quaint-
est & cleverest stone masons
you can imagine. The building
where we are quartered in is 76 years
old & the church is 600 yrs.
old. The French people are very
good to us but they believe in
charging well for every thing.
We surely have some time to
be making them understand
that with hands, feet, mouth
all at once & occasionally I
have to draw a picture to make
them understand. Every thing is
so old fashioned & behind the
times. I see wheel carts & open
etc. Wonderful weather climate
& water, & a wonderful
sight all around. We are
on a hill overlooking the whole
country. I am very well satis-
fied with France so far but
it is easy to see were not a war
country as every thing is so
neglected. They seem to
have a hard time in getting
rations to us & were a hungry
lot. Have been buying chickens

etc. around town & going out
in the woods & jungling up.
Have sure had some wonderful
mulligans, regular hobo style,
all cooked up in an old oil-
can. We're having a wonderful
trip rest at any rate, but
must soon go to work.

July 29th to Aug 2nd

Started our inten-
sive training & it's sure look.
We do bayonet drill, infantry
drill, grenade drill, 'extended
order' drill & other 'engineer'
drills in the A.M. & go on
a 10 mile hike every afternoon.
All soft & maybe were not a
tired & sore lunch. I think feed-
ing us better at any rate. As
the days go by we're getting
hardened & now it's more play
than work. Nothing of ex-
citement ever happens except
for seeing lots of air-planes
every day. Saw one battle in
the air, but were only a few
shots fired. We hear good news
from the front every day as
we're only a short distance
away. Today (2nd Aug) they
told us the Allies captured

33 400 + ritzes, & its sure good
news to us. I think the end
is near but hope at least we
get into the fight for we came
a long way to do it. We can
hear the big guns plain from
here & see the flashes &
get a shell exploding at night.
It outside of hard work every
day. The camp is peaceful.
I hope to get some mail
soon. Since all our freight
is in the bottom of the ocean,
& all my hammer tools & a
graving & stenciling tools with
it alongside of a lot of tobacco.
We may get it yet, but the
day is gone.

Aug. 2nd to Aug. 6.

Having a skirmish drill,
& doing camp patrol duty. Enjoy
it quite a lot too, as is very in-
teresting. Mostly because in
imagining. I recd some mail
today, too & am surely rejoiced
at it. My girl is worth its weight
in gold here. - Have had 4 mails so
far & believe me its good to get
mail. Nothing has happened
with killing except our work
on the river. The

rumor of peace, of coming
armistices etc. But still
the guns boom on. We live
in a convent, & the first
night I slept in a room
where a german was killed
in bed, presumably by a shell.
His brains are scattered all over
the walls & ceiling. While we
were cleaning up one of the
boys picked up a bunch of spotted
rains & says "Look yellow here's
a piece of a german Haversack
but on closer examination it
proved to be a part of his scalp.
Second night slept in a
more or less moved coffins etc.
etc. & slept as good as if
in a feather bed. We are
transferred into idg's to occupy
it a band & sleep in a castle
with a real moat around it.
It is a Barons castle & it has
every a million dollars in
each room. Such stories as
we will be able to tell some-
day. Orders to move again
on 9th.

Sun. Nov. 10.th

Woke out at 10.^{am}

I walk 25 kils to Audenau. One of the stiffest hikes yet. We sleep in a bank. I call that a combination. A hayloft one night, smorgue the next, convent the next, castle the next & last night a bank. We've slept in the mud, water, & every thing else. Rumor of peace are sure afloat & I only hope its true. The Germans have until 11.00 a.m. tomorrow to come through.

Mon. Nov. 11.th 18 to 17th

Rumor is

that Germany has signed up. Its almost too good to be true & I can't believe it hardly. We were working for the war to stop & if its true, now well be waiting for the time to go home. Well, I hope to see an official on it yet. Laying around, enjoying to the full the armistice. It is sure good to know you can go to sleep without being woke up by a shell. Or to know that you

want have to face any more
bullets. The war is over
there's no doubt of it even if
peace hasn't been signed. There
sure a happy bunch of boys
around here. The whole divi-
ion is Billited here in this
town, or in fact its almost
a city. Underhand is the
name I believe. Rumor says
we are going to Brussels to par-
ade a bit then on to Antwerp
where we embark for London
parade there awhile then back
to the states by Kings. That
was General Pershing's boat
that it was hell, heaven or
nabroken in 3 mins, or by
Thomas, & it may be that he
is going to keep his word.

The 41st being one of the 4
shock divisions it very pos-
ible that we will be among
the first to go. I'm sure proud
to be one of them. See how
good it would be
to get back to the states
by Thomas. I'm ready to go

too, for we had plenty of war.
We seen it from every
stand-point from an air-road
to a sniping. I have stood
exposure which in civil life
would kill any ordinary individ-
ual, have slept in the mud
water & in the best beds
the country afforded, have
ate every thing good & had
been to both extremes as
far as health is concerned for
we never felt better in all
any life & have never been
so miserable. So I'll just tell
the world it's ready to go
home. And I'm lucky to be
one of the ones altho I knew
it all the time. At any
rate were on the move again
tomorrow & I personally
think it is the beginning of
our triumphant march home.
Oh yes I saw the King of
Belgium altho he looked just
the same as any other in-
dividual we see.

Nov. 17th to 20th.

Leave Andenau on
the 17th on the march to
Brussels, or we hope to B.

Walk 23 K's & its sure some
like. I could stand anything
but do hate so much, hiking!
Lay around & on 20th good
comes in to move on 21st some
say back, & some on to B.

My main ambition is to see
B. & Antwerp, but it will be
our luck not to. Rumors are
sure going around here, about
us, going home, but I can
believe that either.

Wed. Nov. 20th to 22nd.

Orders delayed some
& we do not move. As expected
Move on 22nd. - 12 K's. &
darned if I don't believe I've
got cramp in my left
hip. It hurts me awfully.
Billings is a school-house.
Lay down like we're on our way to
Theet: Was hoping it was B.
but no such luck.

Sat. Nov. 23rd to 25th.

Break Camp - on march back
to railhead. Wish I knew where we

were named too, but that some-
thing a soldier never knows till
he's there. Talk about 25th
& hills again. Back into the
well known territory now. Were
either going to a rest camp or
home but now I can see home at
no late date at any rate. Lay
around & rest up on 24th
probably go tomorrow. Infantry &
Artillery going through all day.

Mon. Feb. Nov. 25-18.

Still in
same place (Gavere) & waiting
for orders. Orders come in to
move tomorrow. 25th. Like on
way to Roulers where we will
entertain the party unknown.
Home I hope. Rumor says so.
We go up to a big Cathedral today
& see the pipe organ. Of course
it is all in ruins. Says O.K.
From a Chinese hand. It has a
great time. No instruments yet
& getting impatient.

Tues. Nov. 26, 18 - to sleep at
sovere as expected, to reach
where we will & will probably
stay several days. Is very
cold & damp weather. Am lucky

in finding a good bed. We
are resting up in general.

Here I meet the first girl
out to my notion is anywhere
decent since i've been in Europe.
She talks English some, & I am
teaching her English & painting.
Her father is the town Bow
master, or mayor. She gave
me 2 fine Souvenirs - a pack
of German playing cards &
the most beautiful heart shaped
gold stone from Germany I have
ever seen. On the 7th we
move to Ardoy on way to
Blankirk & thence to St. pape,
(so I suppose) A 19, 5. rise.
We have our instruments which
the regiment bought in Thent.
Today was our first conception
of a real army for instead
of a pack I have a drum.
We are very enthusiastic over
the haul.
Dec. 5th to 7th.

Stay overnight
on the edge of no-man's-land
namely, Ostreby Kirke, have to
sleep on the boards, but

When we came in we slept
on the bare ground. Leave
on the 9th toward Oppre
& march 35 kilos ($19\frac{1}{2}$ miles).
On our way to a railhead, so
far unknown. We pass over
Hasschendale & Vimy ridge
& of the most well known &
bloodiest battle grounds of the
war. The place where the
Belgians stopped the Germans
in 1914. I can say without
any exaggeration that for the
whole 20 miles today that there
wasn't room to pitch a pup-
tent. Ground torn up &
not a live tree in the whole
area. I'd hate to have to stay
tied up the barbed wire.
Three miles & miles of it.
We are moving again tomorrow
& I'm glad of it for the mud
is too thick here. Our band
can play & march here now
& we sure enjoy it. It is
good to play in a real band
again. Weather fine for
marching.

Dec. 8th

Dec. 8th. - '8.

More 16 Kb
to Bevern. Another feather
bed. Slept last night on the
Cement. Making tomorrow
nearer Alunkirk where we
will entrain. Our hand is doing
fine & we are very enthusiastic
over it. & five day & promises
of another.

Dec 9th '8.

Walked 16 Kilo
more as we suppose, towards
Alunkirk, but have farther
than when we started. It is
sure a mystery the way we
travel. Always in a circle.
It seems as if we are hiking
for pleasure. We are dubbed
the walking 91st now. Lord but
im tired of it. We crossed the
line from Belgium to France at
9.20 this morning. Billited in
at Wimpzele France. An
other feather bed. All the
people talk English here.

Thurs Dec. 10th to Jan. 2nd '89.
Wimpzele
will probably stay here

some time. Very warm
weather, so far. Rumors
of going home soon & said
like they are only true.
Met some very nice people
here, & all talk English. Got
a fine souvenir. Oh. Sun-
day. 15. Went to Church. It
was sure noel & wouldn't have
missed it for anything. I'll
try & describe it. - The men
were all on one side & the
women on the other. Instead of
pews they had chairs at every time
the hymn changed they had to
turn the chair around. It looked
just like a row of checkers
with the pips. What is - the chairs
scrapping on the floor. - etc.
The service was wonderful -
A big pipe organ. The first
time I have been to church in
Europe. So almost the same as
the U.S. except that naturally there
are a few changes. I almost
forgot how to sit in church. Rum-
ors of moving soon - a couple
of days at the latest, & then

Rumors are strong of going
home. Now I hope to freeze.
Still rainy weather & plenty
of mud. Left our moving of-
fices about Dec. 31. to move
on Jan 2. to new area. I had
a dandy Xmas. dinner & enter-
tainment in evening. On New
Years Eve another snow.
Linda got out & played at
midnight. Hate to leave
Winnipeg, as got well ac-
quainted. The best town &
best people have met in France.
Now we are on our way home.
Riding in the S.H.S. but
were not quite so crowded.
Met 2 fine girls in W. the
first French girls have known.
They are all as good girls
from estimation we raised
several notches.

Jan 2nd to 4th 1919.
Leave Winnipeg on 2nd
like 12:15 to rail-head & train
to camp & lay 2 nights.
Last day-car ride was bad for
heres plenty of eat & hot
room. Arrived at Mergent &



